

GEORGE A. ROMERO

EMPIRE OF THE DEAD

ACT TWO

ILLUSTRATED BY
DALIBOR TALAJIC

MARVEL

4 of 5

PARENTAL
ADVISORY!
NOT FOR KIDS!



NYC UNDEAD UPDATE!



MAYOR CHANDRAKE



PENNY JONES



PAUL BARNUM



XAVIER

FIVE YEARS AFTER THE DEAD FIRST WALKED, NEW YORK CITY HAS BECOME A FORTRESS OF ISOLATION AGAINST THE UNDEAD PLAGUE VIA THE MILITARISTIC FORCES OF MAYOR CHANDRAKE AND HIS CABAL OF SECRET VAMPIRES!

PENNY JONES, A MEDICAL SCIENTIST, AND ZOMBIE WRANGLER PAUL BARNUM ARE WORKING TO TAME A ZOMBIE (AND FORMER SWAT OFFICER) NAMED XAVIER WHO NOT ONLY EXHIBITS INTELLIGENCE BUT SHOWED COMPASSION, SAVING A STREET URCHIN NAMED JO.

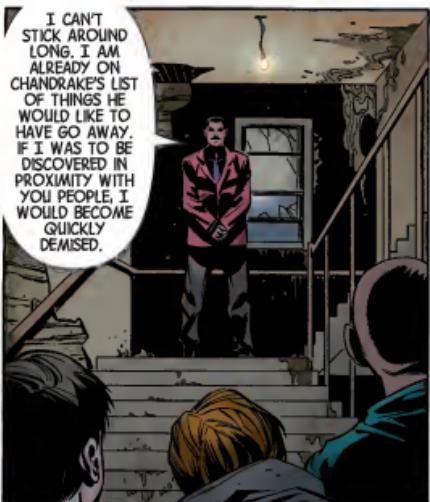
BUT IT'S NOT ALL GOOD NEWS. MAYOR CHANDRAKE KILLED HIS NEPHEW FOR DARING TO RUN AGAINST HIM WHILE A MAN NAMED RUNYON PULLS STRINGS TO QUIETLY BACK DARK HORSE CANDIDATE (AND VAMPIRE) CHILLY DOBBS. A BAND OF SOUTHERN REBELS MOVE TO INVADE NYC FROM NEW JERSEY! A VICTIM OF AN UNSANCTIONED VAMPIRE ATTACK WAS TAKEN TO PENNY'S HOSPITAL, BUT WHEN SHE BEGAN TO CHANGE SHE AND HER MOTHER WERE KILLED BY CHANDRAKE'S MEN.

NEW YORK REMAINS A DANGEROUS PLACE. BE PREPARED. STAY VIGILANT. AIM FOR THE BRAIN.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE 
CITY COUNCIL FOR SECURITY:

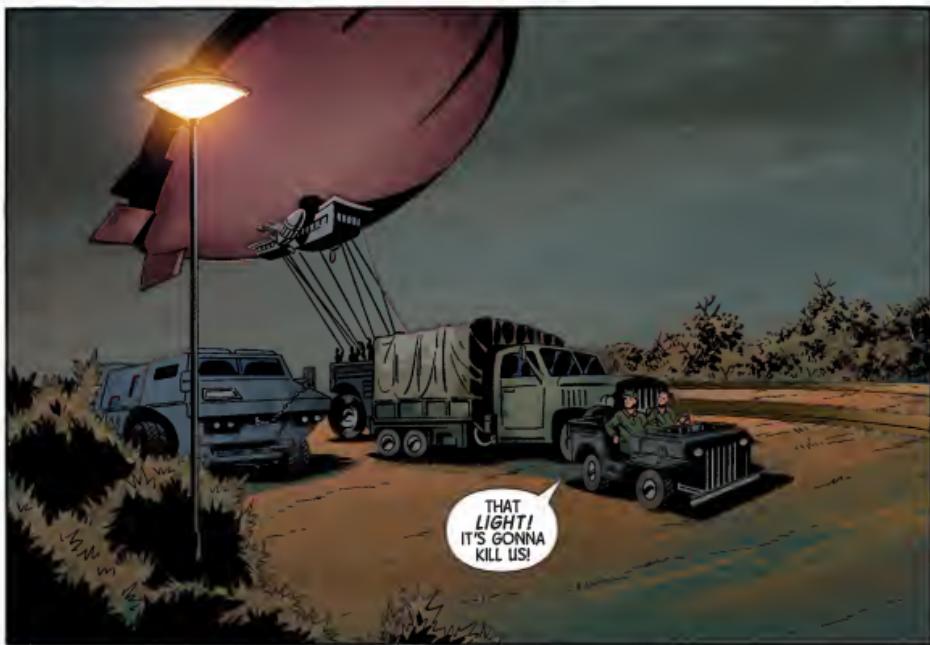
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MANHATTAN'S WEST SIDE.



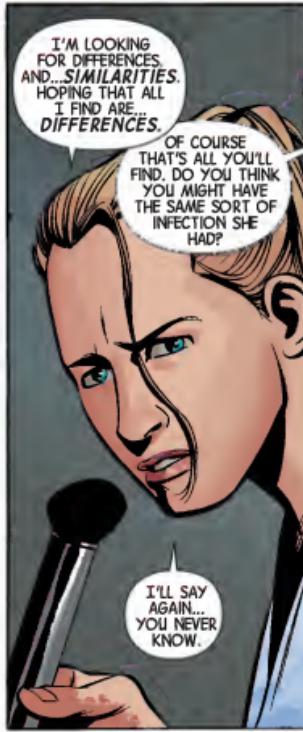
















I WAS NEVER AS NAIVE. I KNEW, ALL THE WHILE, THAT YOU WERE SECURING ME. I ALLOWED IT TO HAPPEN. I WANTED IT TO HAPPEN.



INTIMACY? THAT FLEW OUT THE WINDOW YEARS AGO. EVEN GOOD OLD-FASHIONED ANIMAL SEX IS A THING OF THE PAST!



OF COURSE YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN. THAT'S WHY THERE ARE THREE OF US WHO ARE CURRENTLY WEARING WEDDING RINGS.

AND WHY YOU ARE LOOKING FOR NUMBER FOUR!







"WITH AN ASSIST
FROM A BENGAL
TIGER NAMED..."

"LEMME GUESS.
ZANZIBAR?"



"HE BULLIED MY
FATHER AGAINST THE
BACK OF HIS CAGE."



"THEN I SHOT ZANZIBAR.
OVER AND OVER. TILL
MY CLIP WENT EMPTY."

"FELT BAD FOR THAT POOR
ANIMAL EVER SINCE. HE DIDN'T
KNOW WHAT HE WAS DOIN'."

BLAM
BLAM
BLAM



MAYOR CHANDRAKE'S APARTMENT.

THIS MAYOR
IS FEATHERING HIS
OWN NEST! HE WINS...
WE ALL LOSE!



HE'S GOTTA
BE SOMEWHERE
IN THE CITY.



WE WILL FIND
HIM, SIR. IT'S JUST
A MATTER OF...HOW
LONG WILL IT
TAKE.





HOW LONG DO
YOU THINK IT WOULD
TAKE ME TO REPLACE
YOU, SOLDIER?



NOT VERY
LONG AT ALL
SIR.

WELL, THAT'S
HOW LONG YOU
HAVE TO FIND
THIS GUY!



DOBBS CAN'T
DAMAGE YOU. I
MEAN...WHO IS HE?
SOME SCHMUCK!
WAY OFF THE
RADAR.



HE STAYS
OFF THE RADAR
LONG ENOUGH. ALL
OF A SUDDEN HE'S
ON THE RADAR!
THAT'S HOW IT IS
THESE DAYS.



TAPPAN ZEE BRIDGE.





CENTRAL
PARK.

CRASH





I RECOGNIZE YOU. YOU'RE THE GUY WHO RUINS THE ARENA. WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, PAL? CAN'T A GUY HAVE A LITTLE SNACK? OR IS IT THAT YOU WANT HER FOR YOURSELF?

GET OUT OF HERE.

I DON'T THINK SO. I'M STILL HUNGRY.



THIS... CAN'T... GO... ON.



TO BE
CONTINUED...

